

Whereas more public awareness of the issue of parental choice in education can inform additional families of the benefits of proactively choosing challenging, motivating, and effective education environments for their children;

Whereas the process by which parents choose schools for their children is non-political, nonpartisan, and deserves the utmost respect;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated educational inequities for many children in the United States, highlighting the importance of a high-quality education; and

Whereas tens of thousands of events are planned to celebrate the benefits of educational choice during the 12th annual National School Choice Week, held the week of January 23 through January 29, 2022: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of January 23 through January 29, 2022, as “National School Choice Week”;

(2) congratulates students, parents, teachers, and school leaders from kindergarten through grade 12 education environments of all varieties for their persistence, achievements, dedication, and contributions to society in the United States;

(3) encourages all parents, during National School Choice Week, to learn more about the education options available to them; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, events, and activities during National School Choice Week to raise public awareness of the benefits of opportunity in education.

SENATE RESOLUTION 502—ACKNOWLEDGING AND COMMEMORATING THE WORLD WAR II WOMEN IN THE NAVY WHO SERVED IN THE WOMEN ACCEPTED FOR VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICE (“WAVES”)

Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. MORAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 502

Whereas, President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (referred to in this preamble as “WAVES”) on July 30, 1942, when he signed the Act of July 30, 1942 (56 Stat. 730, chapter 538) into law;

Whereas, despite social stigmas and public opinion averse to women in uniform, women applied for WAVES in such numbers that enrollment ceilings were reached within the first several years;

Whereas, while women had served in the enlisted ranks of the Navy in a variety of positions during World War I, legislation passed after World War I limited women to service as nurses until the creation of the WAVES;

Whereas, during World War II, women in the United States were recruited into the Armed Forces to perform military assignments so that men could be freed for combat duties;

Whereas, under the direction of Lieutenant Commander (later Captain) Mildred Helen McAfee, the WAVES peaked in 1945 at nearly 80,000 officers and enlisted personnel, or approximately 2.5 percent of the wartime strength of the Navy and was composed of women from urban and rural communities across many socioeconomic backgrounds;

Whereas, the Secretary of the Navy’s Annual Report Fiscal Year 1945 stated that there were 8,475 officers and 73,816 enlisted WAVES serving in the spring of 1945;

Whereas the WAVES worked at large and small naval commands from Florida to Washington and from California to Rhode Island, as well as overseas;

Whereas the WAVES numerous and diverse contributions ranged from yeoman, chauffeur, and baker to pharmacist, artist, aircraft mechanic, and dental hygienist;

Whereas during World War II, WAVES served as training instructors throughout the country for newly recruited WAVES as well as thousands of aspiring male naval aviators, gunners, and navigators destined for combat units;

Whereas the WAVES who served in naval aviation taught instrument flying, aircraft recognition, celestial navigation, aircraft gunnery, radio, radar, air combat information, and air fighter administration but were not allowed to be pilots;

Whereas the WAVES served the Navy in such numbers that, according to a Navy estimate, enough men were freed for combat duty to crew the ships of 4 major task forces, each including a battleship, 2 large aircraft carriers, 2 heavy cruisers, 4 light cruisers, and 15 destroyers;

Whereas, at the end of World War II, Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal stated that members of the WAVES “have exceeded performance of men in certain types of work, and the Navy Department considers it to be very desirable that these important services rendered by women during the war should likewise be available in postwar years ahead”;

Whereas, by the end of World War II, more than 400,000 women had served the United States in military capacities, with every Navy aviator who entered combat having received some part of his training from a WAVE;

Whereas the WAVES, despite their merit and the recognized value and importance of their contributions to the war effort, were not given status equal to their male counterparts, and struggled for years to receive the appreciation of Congress and the people of the United States;

Whereas the WAVES helped to catalyze the social, demographic, and economic evolutions that occurred in the 1960s and 1970s and continue to this day; and

Whereas the pioneering women who served in the WAVES are owed a great debt of gratitude for their service to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the women who served the United States in the Navy Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service (“WAVES”) during World War II;

(2) commends the WAVES who, through a sense of duty and willingness to defy stereotypes and social pressures, performed military assignments to aid the war effort, with the result that men were freed for combat duties; and

(3) recognizes that the WAVES, by serving with diligence and merit, not only opened up opportunities for women that had previously been reserved for men, but also contributed vitally to the victory of the United States and the Allies in World War II.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4918. Mr. MENENDEZ (for Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG)) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 35, condemning the military coup that took place on February 1, 2021, in Burma and the Tatmadaw’s detention of civilian leaders, calling for an immediate and unconditional

release of all those detained, promoting accountability and justice for those killed by the Tatmadaw, and calling for those elected to serve in parliament to resume their duties without impediment, and for other purposes.

SA 4919. Mr. MENENDEZ (for Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG)) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 35, supra.

SA 4920. Mr. MENENDEZ (for Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG)) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 35, supra.

SA 4921. Mr. MENENDEZ (for Mrs. SHAHEEN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 345, expressing the sense of the Senate on the political situation in Belarus.

SA 4922. Mr. MENENDEZ (for Mr. OSSOFF) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 496, congratulating the University of Georgia Bulldogs football team for winning the 2022 National Collegiate Athletic Association College Football Playoff National Championship.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4918. Mr. MENENDEZ (for Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG)) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 35, resolution condemning the military coup that took place on February 1, 2021, in Burma and the Tatmadaw’s detention of civilian leaders, calling for an immediate and unconditional release of all those detained, promoting accountability and justice for those killed by the Tatmadaw, and calling for those elected to serve in parliament to resume their duties without impediment, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: “That the Senate—

(1) supports the people of Burma in their ambition for democracy, sustainable peace, and genuine ethnic and religious reconciliation, and the realization of internationally recognized human rights for all, including for ethnic and religious groups whose human rights have been violated repeatedly and who have been disenfranchised historically;

(2) calls on the Tatmadaw to—

(A) immediately and unconditionally release all political prisoners detained as a result of the military coup on February 1, 2021;

(B) immediately restore all forms of communications, including access to the internet without surveillance;

(C) immediately end the use of violence and allow for a legal process for accountability and justice for those unlawfully detained, injured, and killed by the Tatmadaw;

(D) remove all impediments to free travel that have been imposed as a result of the coup;

(E) return to power all members of the civilian government elected in the November 8, 2020, elections and allow them to fulfill their mandate without impediment;

(F) allow for freedom of expression, including the right to protest, peaceful assembly, press freedom, and freedom of movement; and

(G) allow unfettered reporting from local, national, and international media;

(3) calls on social media companies to suspend the accounts of the Union Solidarity and Development Party and the Tatmadaw that have used their platforms to spread disinformation, fear, and psychological violence;

(4) supports the use of all diplomatic, economic, and development tools to ensure that vulnerable groups, including ethnic and religious groups, as well as all children, youth,

and teachers in educational settings are safe, and schools and universities are not targeted for attacks or use by the Tatmadaw;

(5) expresses grave concern for the safety and security of hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons (referred to in this resolution as “IDPs”) and refugees who have been displaced by the Tatmadaw and now face challenging conditions in camps;

(6) expresses grave concern for the 3,000,000 people of Burma who are in need of humanitarian aid, including the 223,000 IDPs in Burma, of which 165,000 remain in the southeast, adding to those already displaced in Rakhine, Chin, Shan and Kachin states;

(7) encourages Burma's neighboring countries, including Thailand, India, and Bangladesh, to meaningfully assist refugees who have fled and continue to flee the Tatmadaw;

(8) calls on the President, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of Defense to fully implement section 7008 of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2021 (division K of Public Law 116-260) and any similar or successor law governing United States foreign assistance following a coup d'état, and to immediately—

(A) impose targeted restrictions aimed at the Tatmadaw, military-owned or controlled enterprises, and those responsible for the February 1, 2021, coup;

(B) work with the international community, including at the United Nations Security Council, with United States allies in the region, and with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, to condemn the coup, delegitimize the junta, and take steps to ensure that international economic engagement in Burma does not contribute to human rights abuses and benefit individuals connected to the coup;

(C) support conditionality on diplomatic, economic, and security relations with Burma, including using the voice and vote of the United States at multilateral development institutions, until all those detained in the February 1, 2021, coup are released and there has been a full restoration of civilian-controlled parliament respecting the November 8, 2020, election results;

(D) utilize the United States Government's position on the United Nations Security Council to bring about greater international cooperation in the pursuit of justice and accountability in Burma;

(E) legitimize and provide assistance to the National Unity Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the National Unity Consultative Council, the Civil Disobedience Movement in Myanmar, and other entities promoting democracy in Burma, while simultaneously denying legitimacy and resources to the junta;

(F) promote national reconciliation among the diverse ethnic and religious groups in Burma;

(G) counter support to the junta by the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation; and

(H) secure the restoration of democracy, the establishment of an inclusive and representative civilian government and a reformed military reflecting the diversity of Burma and under civilian control, and the enactment of constitutional, political, and economic reform in Burma; and

(9) urges the Secretary of State to swiftly conduct an Interagency Process and issue a determination as to whether the targeting and murder of innocent civilians by the Tatmadaw during and after the February 1, 2021, coup d'état, specifically those associated with ethnic and religious groups in Burma, and crimes committed by the Tatmadaw against such ethnic and religious groups prior to the coup constitute crimes against humanity or genocide.

SA 4919. Mr. MENENDEZ (for Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG)) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 35, condemning the military coup that took place on February 1, 2021, in Burma and the Tatmadaw's detention of civilian leaders, calling for an immediate and unconditional release of all those detained, promoting accountability and justice for those killed by the Tatmadaw, and calling for those elected to serve in parliament to resume their duties without impediment, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, on February 1, 2021, the military of Burma (the “Tatmadaw”) and its aligned Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) conducted a military coup against the civilian government hours before Parliament was to convene in a new session, resulting in the military junta illegally detaining State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, President Win Myint, and members of Parliament, as well as pro-democracy activists from the 88 Generation and other civil society leaders;

Whereas, since February 1, 2021, the Tatmadaw has detained more than 11,000 people for exercising their rights of freedom of speech and assembly and killed more than 1,400 civilians, including children;

Whereas the Tatmadaw has put the democratically-elected civilian leadership of Burma, including President Win Myint and State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, through sham trials for fabricated crimes and sentenced them to lengthy prison terms in order to remove them from political competition;

Whereas the Tatmadaw has become the world's second largest detainer of journalists, with over 100 journalists imprisoned since the military coup;

Whereas the Tatmadaw's actions have driven hundreds of thousands from their homes and driven thousands to flee across Burma's borders into Thailand, India, and Bangladesh;

Whereas fighting between the Tatmadaw and several ethnic armed groups continues, with government forces committing increased abuses against ethnic Karen, Kayah, Kachin, Chin, Rakhine, Shan, and Rohingya minority populations;

Whereas the Tatmadaw restricted freedom of movement, telecommunications, and the media, limiting access to information to and from Burma during a political and public health crisis;

Whereas senior generals of the Tatmadaw have been sanctioned by the United States Government for serious human rights abuses and for their role in the coup and are subject to ongoing investigations into their conduct by the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice;

Whereas, on January 28, 2021, the Union Election Commission rejected allegations by the Tatmadaw that fraud played a significant role in determining the outcome of the November 2020 elections;

Whereas Burma's November 8, 2020, elections resulted in the National League for Democracy party securing enough seats in Parliament to form the next government;

Whereas the Tatmadaw has a long history of committing atrocities against the people of Burma, including the targeting of specific ethnic groups; and

Whereas senior United States officials have committed to making a determination of whether such atrocities constitute genocide: Now, therefore, be it

SA 4920. Mr. MENENDEZ (for Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG)) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 35, resolution condemning the military coup that took place on February 1, 2021, in Burma and the Tatmadaw's detention of civilian leaders, calling for an immediate and unconditional release of all those detained, promoting accountability and justice for those killed by the Tatmadaw, and calling for those elected to serve in parliament to resume their duties without impediment, and for other purposes; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “A resolution condemning the military coup that took place on February 1, 2021, in Burma and the Tatmadaw's detention of civilian leaders, calling for an immediate and unconditional release of all those detained, promoting accountability and justice for those killed by the Tatmadaw, and calling for those elected to serve in parliament to resume their duties without impediment, and for other purposes.”.

SA 4921. Mr. MENENDEZ (for Mrs. SHAHEEN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 345, expressing the sense of the Senate on the political situation in Belarus; as follows:

On page 13, strike lines 1 through 8, and insert the following:

(7) calls for the unconditional release of all political prisoners and journalists detained on dubious charges, including opposition candidates Sergei Tikhonovskiy and Viktor Babaryka, pro-democracy activist Maria Kalesnikava, and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty journalists Ihor Losik, Aleh Hruzdilovich, and Andrey Kuznechuk;

On page 14, lines 8 and 9, strike “consider all economic, political, and diplomatic tools” and insert “consider further tools”.

SA 4922. Mr. MENENDEZ (for Mr. OSSOFF) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 496, congratulating the University of Georgia Bulldogs football team for winning the 2022 National Collegiate Athletic Association College Football Playoff National Championship; as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: “That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Georgia Bulldogs football team for a great season and winning the 2022 National Collegiate Athletic Association College Football Playoff National Championship game;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all players, coaches, and staff who contributed to the championship season; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the President of the University of Georgia, Jere Morehead;

(B) the Athletic Director of the University of Georgia, Josh Brooks; and

(C) the Head Coach of the University of Georgia Bulldogs football team, Kirby Smart.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have 8 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.